

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

DECEMBER, 1871.

No. 12.

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#### HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

The Parian Chronicle records that Phidon, King of Argos, first caused silver money to be coined by the people of Ægina, a rocky island in the Saronicus Sinus (the modern Gulf of Egina). Conjecture places the period somewhere in the eighth century before the Christian era. From the researches of Borrel, it appears probable that the coins executed by order of King Phidon were different from those peculiar to the Ægineians, and used as their own currency, which are believed to have had an earlier origin. Those of the island are easily known by the invariable tortoise which occupies the obverse, the reverse having, as in the case of the early gold coins of Asia Minor, the simple mark of the punch used in driving the metal into the die. It is interesting to trace the progress made in the art of coining by the improvement in the execution of the pieces. The earliest has a rude but boldly designed tortoise, with four deep triangular indentations on the reverse. The next exhibits the reptile with a row of knobs on his vertebral column, the reverse the quadratum incusum. Still later we find a more artistic tortoise, showing the convolutions of the shell, and also having the initial letters Aig (anciently *i* was often used where *e* is now employed). The punch mark, too, is greatly improved.

The purity and standard weight of the money of Ægina, which comprised several different sizes, obtained for it a general circulation throughout the Peloponnesus. In fact, for a time, it was nearly the only circulating medium there, the coins being known as tortoises, from their type. The tortoise was sacred to Mercury, to whom was attributed the invention of weights and measures. It is believed that the reliability of this money established for it such a character as made it so desirable not to change the type at any subsequent period, and it is known that such was the case long after improvements had been made in the coinage of other States.

There are coins in existence, similar in their general character to the above, which must have been minted at no very distant period therefrom. These, from the type which is found to be peculiar to a particular city or state, are usually easily located. For instance, the



Athenian type is the owl, the Bœotian a buckler, the Dyrrachian a cow suckling her calf, and the Sybarian a bull. On later issues are usually added the initial letters, as Athe on Athenian, Dyr on Dyrrachian, etc., . The knowledge of our art must have spread first throughout Asia Minor, the islands in the Ægeum Mare and Peloponnesus, then into the more distant parts of Græcia, into Sicilia, Italia Inferior, and the most distant Greek cities. As time progressed, great improvements are noticed; the punch was ornamented with various designs, and then an actual device was placed upon it. Still later, the initials of the city or province, and also those of various magistrates were arranged around a square space upon it, in some cases in an indentation specially provided for the letters; and finally a perfect die was substituted altogether for the punch; in other words, *two dies* were employed, and have continued in use up to the present day.

(*To be continued.*)

### ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

BY EDWARD G. FAST, ESQ.

#### DRESSES.

The usual dress of the man consists of a woolen blanket, linen trousers and shirt, most commonly well worn and dirty. Of the women, a blue blanket trimmed with red cloth and numerous buttons, covering an unspeakable dirty shirt and petticoat. Since the Americans arrived, among the females, especially the younger ones, some signs of a turn toward cleanliness and neatness have appeared. They begin to wash their shirts, and what is much more, their faces, and favor modern dresses, of course, of somewhat primitive pattern.

#### DOMESTIC HABITS.

The Kaloshians are not a nomadic people. The dreariness of the soil and the roughness of the climate are contrary to a nomadic style of life. Many tribes live still on the same spots as their ancestors many years ago. This stability accounts for their steadiness and industry in former times. The poorer families live in small huts made of bark, and just large enough to receive the members of the family and a few utensils, and to allow a fire to burn in the centre of the room. The dwellings, in compact settlements, consist of houses, generally of square form, and put up of roughly prepared logs and boards, and roofed with bark.

Such houses are occupied by a number of families, and their owner is considered the chief. The interior of a house is, with few exceptions, exceedingly filthy. There is no place, no utensil, no article of provision, no living creature to be found manifesting cleanliness and propriety. Filth is everywhere, and the domestic habits of its occupants are in accordance with the general feature of the place. To judge these people by their present domestic condition, they must appear as the most miserable and pitiable creatures. It would be, however, not difficult for them to better their condition, but they are

too lazy and indifferent to work more than extreme necessity dictates, and all their earnings by fishing and the chase are spent in rum and whisky. Their domestic implements, once so skillfully and artistically manufactured by their ancestors, are of the most primitive quality, and generally articles cast away by or bought of the Russians; and fancy articles, except bracelets of silver imported from the British Territory and the only ornament of woman's dress, are to be found only as relics.

(*To be continued.*)

### CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

(*Continued.*)

Counterfeits are, of course, plenty, and the Chinese are so patient and skillful in such matters that a practised eye is required to detect the fraud. This will appear from the following incident: When the Tartars overthrew the Ming dynasty, Tschén, the viceroy of Canton, remained loyal to his former sovereign and was, therefore, condemned by his captors to be sawed to pieces. His heroism in the midst of the most fearful tortures rendered him so popular that the new emperor found it prudent to disavow his execution, to enshrine him among the deities and to erect a pagoda to his memory; his autographs were, therefore, much sought and highly prized. A member of the French legation happened to have four of these, which he had framed and hung on the walls of his office. One day, a Chinese artist saw them and begged the owner to lend them to him for a single day, in order that he might exhibit them at the wedding of his son. His wish was cheerfully granted, and in due time four counterfeits were returned in their stead, though they were executed so skillfully that the owner would not have detected the imposition had he not made certain private marks on the originals before suffering them to pass out of his hands. When the fraud was discovered, the counterfeiter pleaded so earnestly that his act was not exposed to the authorities; had it been done, he would have died under the bastinado.

(*To be continued.*)

### HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the years 1822 and 1823, an attempt seems to have been made to institute an uniform coinage for the British colonies, on the decimal system, and coins were struck of the value of 1 and 2 cents, but were never circulated. These are seldom found except as proofs and are exceedingly rare. We give in Nos. 1 and 2 a description of these coins.

1. Obv.—Bust of George IV. to left, laureated and draped



"GEOR : IV : D : G : BRI : REX." Rev.—In a wreath of oak leaves,  
 "1/50 DOLLAR COLONIAL 1823."

2. C. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—Do., do., "1/100 DOLLAR."

3. C. Obv.—Locomotive. "MONTREAL & LACHINE RAILROAD COMPANY." Rev.—Beaver beside water, trunk of tree with two branches in background. "THIRD CLASS." These checks have a round hole in centre. When these tickets or checks were imported, this railroad connected the city of Montreal and the village Lachine, distant nine miles. The principal portion of the passengers were the Indians and squaws, from Caughnawaga (on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence), and the men employed upon the canal then building. It became necessary to secure something more lasting than the ordinary ticket, and accordingly a large supply of these were procured from Birmingham. The conductor carried them strung upon a piece of wire, which accounts for hole in the centre. They are becoming scarce, as the balance remaining in the hands of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway Company were melted, at St. Lamberts, in September, 1862, thus leaving a comparatively small number in circulation.

(To be continued.)

#### EDITORIAL TOUR.

Having just returned from a coin hunting trip, in the States of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, we must ask the indulgence of our readers for the lack of the usual coin and stamp matter in the present number, and offer, as a set-off, a brief description of our journey. We left home, on the 13th of November, in time to attend the Cogan coin sale, in New York, advertised for that date, and at the close of the sale jumped aboard the Hudson River cars for Albany. A short stay among our patrons in the latter city convinced us that the numismatic fraternity were prospering finely, and the select few who kindly received us at Stanwix Hall have our thanks for favors extended. From Albany, a few miles distant, we entered the thriving city of Troy, where we hurriedly interviewed the coin collectors and pushed on to Hoosick Falls, a small city snugly esconced in the corner of New York, near the line of Vermont and Massachusetts. Here we met a remarkable man an enthusiastic numismatist, mineralogist, geologist and conchologist, possessing, also, rare abilities in other sciences and that is not all, for we found our old friend and patron, Lyman Wilder, a mechanical genius of extraordinary ability. We had often heard of Mr. Wilder's famous octagonal building, in which is treasured the curiosities, minerals and relics collected by an enthusiastic admirer of the beauties of nature during a busy life. We found Mr. Wilder at his beautiful residence, and had the pleasure of inspecting the curious structure that contained so many valuable and interesting specimens of nature. The octagonal building is erected in the garden, at the left side of the residence, fronting the street, and is two stories high. The lower

floor contains large and handsome glass cases, arranged around the centre of the room, springing up from which is a huge octagon glass case, filled with specimens of rare and beautiful birds, and standing at least fifteen feet from the floor. The flat cases arranged in a circle, about two and a half feet from the floor, contain thousands upon thousands of crystals, from the size of a pin head to the largest single specimen known—glimmering in the sunlight like beds of diamonds. Agates and other stones, selected for their beauty and rarity, are arranged in beautiful figures, and these cases alone would require a whole day, following the huge catalogue, to read the numbers and descriptions. Upon the walls, in the corners, are erected mechanical or revolving shelves, moved by a crank, exhibiting the most interesting native and foreign minerals at each turn of the wheel—all large and perfectly formed specimens. Quite a number of other shelves, for smaller specimens, are raised by an ingenious mechanical contrivance, in enclosed glass cases upon the walls, so that one shelf, when examined, moves quietly down out of sight, while a second rises up to view, this disappearing in turn, and a third, fourth and fifth of the concealed shelves rise for examination in like manner. All these perpendicular lifting boards have small strips, upon which are fastened, well labelled and numbered, multitudinous varieties of minerals, shells, fossils, insects, etc. Mr. Wilder keeps in this room a reception book for visitors' names, and the many addresses recorded proves that his beautiful cabinet is appreciated by many of the talented scientific men of the country, while the remarks frequently given opposite their names show that his efforts in behalf of science are warmly appreciated if not properly remunerated. A side stairway conducts the visitor to the second story of the cabinet, which is arranged with equal skill for the reception of the larger specimens and rare and curious relics. The building, we should think, is about twenty-five feet in diameter, with a height of fifty feet from the base to the top of the cupola. Mr. Wilder is a large manufacturer of agricultural implements and woolen machinery, and at the time of our visit had just patented and finished a new power, driven by hand, having the force of a small steam engine, and, to convince us of its practicability, sawed a thick plank readily, while we furnished the motive power by simply turning a flywheel with a small crank or handle attached. Mr. Wilder is an industrious and wealthy citizen who has added increased lustre to a bright little city, full of enterprise and vim. The coin cabinet belonging to Mr. Wilder is unique in its way, and arranged with improvements for opening and closing the drawers (particulars of size, etc. in a forthcoming article on coin cabinets), contains a very choice collection of the different series of American coins and medals and a large number and many varieties of fine and valuable pieces.

Our next move was back to Troy and Albany; thence to Binghamton, Hornellsville, and Buffalo; thence back to New York, up to Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut, into Springfield, Massachu-



setts, bringing up at the hub of creation—Boston. At all these places we met good, honest, earnest workers in the numismatic line; gentlemen by education and conduct, who gave us a hearty welcome and relieved us of an overload of coins by exchange and purchase, for all of which we return our thanks—warm and hearty. In Boston, we found relatives and friends who made our stay agreeable; among the latter we cannot resist the temptation of naming W. Elliott Woodward, of the Highlands, a gentleman and scholar, whose equal, as a numismatic expert, it would be difficult to find, and by whose condescension and courtesy we had the rare pleasure of visiting the renowned spots for which Roxbury was and is famous; not the least of which was the towering brick chimney, standing many feet above the Bunker Hill monument, and possessing the remarkable and attractive feature of a reverberating echo unequalled in any land. Personally we inspected the old chimney, erected, we believe, by a chemical-manufacturing company, many years ago, to carry off the deleterious gases from its giddy peak. Few of the Highlanders are aware that this lonely and elevated brick pillar produces a multiplicity of echoes, answering the human voice with all the distinctness and volume of sound as uttered by the visitor who speaks within its dark and dismal confines. The chimney stands on a rocky base, in the centre of a field of ruins, a few rods from the well-travelled streets of Roxbury. Upon entering one of the doorways, the first echo is heard from the noise of advancing steps, and grows louder and louder as the visitor advances, until the repeating echoes startle and astonish one beyond conception. We recovered our surprise upon first entering, and called out in a loud tone, "Got any coins here?" The echoes came instantly, but in a sepulchral tone, in equally distinct and loud responses, and we retreated with our question dinging in our ears in rapid succession, at least a half dozen times, to our great and increasing wonder. To our readers, who chance to visit Boston, we say, earnestly and emphatically, go and see the echoing chimney. Call on Mr. Woodward for the direction, and he will point out to you this wonder. After a long lingering look at the big chimney, and in the language of Hibernia, it takes several looks to see the top of it, we jumped into Mr. W.'s beautiful phaeton, and behind a two-forty pony, soon arrived at and examined other curious and interesting structures, among which were the Eustis and Bartlett estates, the Shaw building and grounds, and other historical localities.

In this public manner we take occasion to thank Mr. Woodward for his kindness, and, in no spirit of flattery, would say that he is the life and soul of Boston Highlands; buying and building properties; working night and day, like a Trojan; yet he is never depressed, never discouraged, pushing and driving, forcing business to come to him; cutting public streets, filling up marshes, and making the ruined and overflowed lands of his neighborhood to bloom like gardens of Eden.

From Boston we next visited Lowell, spent a few hours among



the coin collectors, and returning visited all the noted numismatists of the Tri-mountain city, picked up some rare and fine coins, and departed for home, having travelled two thousand miles within a fortnight, and accomplished a coin trade, in buying and selling, of an equal amount of dollars. In a few months—perhaps weeks—we shall start on the same tour adding Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, and hope to interest our readers with a few notes picked up by the wayside.

E. M., JR.

## OBVERSE AND REVERSE SUPERSCRPTIONS.

*Reported literally to the letter.*

BY E. MASON, JR.

Hold! do not break this pretty seal:  
What! would you calmly, coolly steal?  
Avaunt! touch not a single cent—

Let her kindly stay, where other letters lay—  
How proud to raise your head and say, "let her went."

*(Laconic.)*

2 A. P. M.

Let her B, let him C  
The on S. T. in Sam's M. B.  
I O P, A trifling fee  
For services as A M. D.

*(Pathetic.)*

This letter's fat,  
The sender poor;  
Touch it not  
Or death is sure.

*(Comic.)*

Not a dern'd cent is under this yaller cover hid;  
Yer mought think so, stranger, but, if yer did,  
Yer wouldn't be such an onery scamp,  
Ter steal a cussed little 3 cent stamp.

*(Sarcastic.)*

All perfumed and sealed, forward to Miss Nellie Centor,  
From Jessie Dwight, the rat and mouse trap inventor;  
I've sent her this that she may sound the knell  
To all the hopes of a certain Mr. *Bell*;  
Who tried, with his little red head and puffed up belly,  
To *ring* himself in upon my sweet little Nellie—  
Handle it tenderly, deliver it with care—  
In the State of Pennsylvania, Montgomery Square.

## UNIQUE GREENBACK.

Major C. P. Nichols, of Springfield, Massachusetts, has the first United States five dollar note (No. 1, Series A), issued by the government.

## COIN CABINETS.

*With cost and dimensions; also the best method of preserving coins and medals, from observation and experience of eleven years, with a description of some of the best cabinets in the United States.*

BY E. M., JR.

It is an important question with collectors how best to preserve coins and medals; and this question has puzzled many of our most noted numismatists. One individual will advocate wrapping in paper; another will insist that coins and medals should be tightly secured in paper boxes excluding the air; a third wishes to admire his pieces under pin heads enclosed in a frame, covered with a plate of glass; a fourth prefers an upright case with inclined shelves; a fifth insists that perforated drawers, or shelves of pasteboard or wood serves the purpose exactly; a sixth is attached to the neat little cabinet of rose-wood, black walnut or mahogany, with a dozen drawers lined with flashy colored velvet or velveteen, having folding doors, and panelled in all the beauty and perfectness of the cabinet maker's skill; a seventh insists that the large closet-like cabinets are every way preferable; an eighth individual uses cotton, another wool, another cloth and so on *ad infinitum*. We propose first to speak of the different cabinets or cases most generally used by experts, treating of dimensions, qualities and cost; secondly, methods of preserving coins from dampness, frost, gases and other deleterious and objectionable influences which injure and depreciate the value of fine pieces.

(*To be continued.*)

## A VERY RARE COIN.

Alfred S. Robinson, of this city, has an exceedingly rare American piece. The coin is pure silver; on the obverse are representations of the communion service, cup, plate, table, etc. "This do in remembrance of me;" on the reverse, the burning bush, "Nec tamen consumebar." "yet nevertheless it shall not be consumed." Upon the edge, "Presbyterian church, Charleston, S. C., 1800." Mr. Robinson has traced the history of the specimen, which was purchased by him of a well known citizen of Hartford, now located in Montreal. It was found by a Union soldier among a lot of buried silver of various kinds, and was undoubtedly presented as a token of membership of that particular church, all of whom now are "each in his narrow cell forever laid."—*Hartford Courant*.

[There is a duplicate of the above piece in this city.—*Ed.*]

## RARE ENGLISH TOKEN.

Mr. L. G. Parmelee, of Boston, has a copper token apparently connected with America, issued by a Mr. Spence, of London, very rare. Obv.—View of a deserted village and church in the distance. "One only Master grasps the whole Domain, 1795." Rev.—an American Indian. "If Rents I once consent to pay, my Liberty is past away."



### CRAZY BAILEY.

We take, from a city paper, the following account of the trial of George Shutcliff, alias Bailey, to whom we alluded in a former number as having robbed our distinguished philanthropist, Prof. Wagner:

PRECIOUS STONES—George Shutcliff was charged with the larceny of a number of precious stones and other valuables, estimated to be worth one thousand dollars, the property of Professor Wagner, principal of the Wagner Free Institute of Science, Seventeenth Street and Montgomery Avenue.

The prosecutor testified that the accused called at his place on the 21st of September and represented himself to be a geological student, but, being sick, he (Shutcliff) left; on the 25th inst., he again called, in company with another man, and was shown by him (Wagner) the cabinet of precious stones, gold ore, and other valuables.

The loss was not discovered until about two weeks after the second visit. The prisoner said he was a son of a member of Parliament, that his father represented Warwickshire, England, and that the income that he derived from England was thirty-three hundred pounds per annum.

The defence admitted the larceny, but argued that the prisoner is not accountable for what he says or does.

Mr. Bailey, father of the accused, testified that his son's name is George William Bailey, and that for some time he has had considerable difficulty with him. The articles had been sold by him, amounting to four hundred dollars, for one dollar, which he (the witness) paid back for the return of the property. He has on various occasions stolen articles, some of a very trifling character, and at one place where he had sold some of them he carried off several things, which he sold back again to the original owner.

Dr. Wm. Brown was called to the stand, and testified that, from what he had seen of the accused and heard him say, he was satisfied that he is not of sound mind. Several other physicians were called, who all expressed the opinion that the defendant is not of sound mind. Verdict, not guilty on the ground of insanity.

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### CURIOUS BUTTON.

J. W. Haseltine, of this city, has recently picked up an old brass button, well worn and rusty, about the size of a United States half cent, having the monogram G. R., crowned, in centre; above it, in a curved line, the legend LIBERTY; below the monogram, the motto "RANGER." Is it a Georgia Button? Was there in ante-revolutionary times an English military or militia company known as the Georgia Rangers? If so, why was the legend "Liberty" added? as the button appears of English make. Perhaps the monogram is that of George III, and signifies "Georgius Rex." Who knows?

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### 1792 WASHINGTON HALF DOLLAR.

Mr. Strobridge, who corrected the manuscript of the catalogue of the Clay cabinet, in a note to lot 997 A, page 68 of the catalogue, puts the question: "Is there another with *edge milled*?"—alluding to the half dollar in copper of 1792, having, we believe, an *engrailed*, not "*milled*" edge. We answer, Yes, there is another of this variety in possession of Prof. Charles Anthon, of New York, superior in condition to Dr. Clay's piece.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OSHKOSH, WIS., November 4, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

GENTS: Yours of the 1st inst., requesting me to give you a short article upon the two varieties of American cents, now in my cabinet, has been received. And if any information I can give will lead to throw any light upon the interesting study of numismatics it will be gladly furnished.

The first is dated 1802. It has a break in the obverse die, commencing on the right side, about midway between the word "Liberty" and the date, from thence it reaches nearly to the head, and there making an acute angle, turns upwards barely escaping the letter "y" and finally terminating at the centre of the letter "e" in liberty. On the reverse there are no stems to the wreath and I do not remember of having before heard of a cent of this date where both varieties were combined in one.

The next cent is dated 1808, and this also has no stems to wreath on the reverse. The obverse is the same as in the common variety.

W. P. C.

PHILADELPHIA, November 30, 1871.

DEAR SIR: Would not an article, or series of articles, describing the best methods of constructing cabinets, at *moderate expense*, prove both interesting and instructive to many of the readers of your journal?

To those just commencing the study of numismatics it would prove especially valuable.

If properly encouraged to do so, many collectors might be willing to furnish descriptions of their cabinets and methods of arranging their collections.

Expressing a hope that this matter may be referred to in the next number of the magazine, I am,

Very truly, yours, F.

[We have commenced the article in the present number.—*Ed.*]

THE END OF VOLUME FIVE.

With this number we close the fifth volume of our magazine, filled with gratitude for the kind patronage extended towards our humble efforts to furnish varied and interesting matter for all those engaged in forming cabinets of coins and stamps. The magazine stands, with all its good and bad qualities, an epitome of the coin and stamp trade for the past five years—it speaks for itself, and, without indulging in any rash promises for the future, we tender our subscribers the thanks of a warm heart with the best wishes for their prosperity, and trust that Christmas will find them in the enjoyment of every luxury, including a full bound set of this journal. A happy New Year to all, and an early remittance of the usual subscription price is our closing wish and request.



### THE CLAY COIN SALE.

The momentous day approaches when the beautiful collection of coins and medals formed by Dr. Charles Clay, of Manchester, England, will be brought to the hammer, and the pieces scattered far and wide never again to be united in one charming whole. Great is the pity that our poor country cannot command sufficient spare change to buy this remarkable collection, which would improve greatly the inferior cabinet of the United States coins now reposing in all their horrid deformity in the coin and medal department in the United States Mint. In point of interest, as well as rarity of the pieces, Dr. Clay's cabinet is fully equal to the Mickley collection; and yet there are many trashy pieces in the former, while as a whole—speaking in reference to series—the latter excelled. The beauty and interest in the Clay cabinet is confined to cents of early dates, the Colonial and Washington Pieces, and in all these points Clay excels Mickley. A full account of this sale will appear in the January number of our journal, together with the prices realized for the choice pieces. A limited number of catalogues prevented us from giving each of our patrons a copy. The Clay sale will commence at 5 P. M. on Tuesday, December 5, and continue three days.

### THANKS TO EDWARD COGAN.

It pleases us always to receive a kindness, and pleases us more to have an unsolicited favor from a rival in the coin trade. Edward Cogan, the well known and highly respected dealer, inserted our address in his recently issued circulars, concerning the Clay coin sale, to come off on the 5th, 6th and 7th of this month. We appreciate this courtesy, and regret the omission of Mr. Cogan's address in our circular on the same subject, in print too early to make the addition. This kindness will be long remembered and treasured up as another mark of esteem and confidence on the part of a distinguished brother in the numismatic trade.

### THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

Five numbers of this entertaining monthly magazine are on our table, from Harlow E. Woodward, publisher, Boston. Our patrons should send for a specimen copy or, what is better, subscribe for the work. Only one dollar per annum, and contains fifty-two pages. See advertisement on cover.

### CLAY COIN SALE.

By request of many of our subscribers, we shall commence, in the next volume of our journal, the publication of the Clay catalogue, with the prices realised at the sale affixed to each lot, omitting the common foreign and miscellaneous pieces of but little value or interest to collectors. Subscribers should be particular to send in their names early, as we will not promise to furnish back numbers after the close of January, 1872.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. J. P., NEW HAVEN.—Many warm thanks for your favors. The 1830 cent you presented us with will be noticed in a future number.

S. T., MILWAUKEE.—There is an 1825 U. S. half dollar over 1824. Varieties of the silver coinage of the United States are now commanding attention among collectors. Report every variety you can discover.

W. P. C. OSHKOSH.—Your half eagle is scarce, rarely found in extra fine condition. Worth \$10. Name the Indian relics and lowest price for lot. Glad to know you took the first prize at the Northern Wisconsin Fair for best collection of coins, etc. Energy meets its own reward.

T. W. T., VINEYARD HAVEN.—Do not at present wish to purchase. May negotiate with you after Clay sale.

R. C., WASHINGTON.—All right now. The fine pieces sold. Dime of 1811 over 1809 rare. We have a fine one.

E. B. T., WATKINS.—No list yet issued of Elliott sale in New York, or sale of September 13, in Philadelphia.

J. P., BOSTON HIGHLANDS.—Did not succeed in finding you while we were in Boston. Will see you soon.

A. V., MALDEN.—Twenty-five cents paid for January numbers of 1871. Do not want the others.

BIDDERS EVERYWHERE.—Telegraph additional bids on Clay sale to Mason & Co., in care of George A. Leavitt & Co., auctioneers, New York.

S. R. P., CAMBRIDGE.—“Crosby did not write the personal attacks on your magazine in the Boston publication signed ‘C.’ C. Chaplin, of Boston, was the author.” Thank you for the information. Mr. Chaplin was the party who catalogued Trifet’s sale, and now we know who owes “that two dollars,” as Trifet disclaims having had any property in the sale, but was merely the monkey who pulled the chestnuts out of the fire for “C.”

T. S. P., IOWA CITY.—Regret we cannot supply the numbers you require. Amount due on sale November 7 received.

R. W. McL., MONTREAL.—Have no pieces you require at present. Sent the November number.

J. B. C., PROVIDENCE.—Account square.

M. L., WOBURN.—Subscription for 1872 received.

J. V. P., CLEVELAND.—Account square.

AMBIGUOUS.—Lot 72, Clay catalogue, is described by Dr. Clay as “perfectly unique.” Does this term signify that other *uniques* in the catalogue are *nearly unique*, *somewhat unique* or *mostly unique*?

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“C. O. D.”

These ominous initials will accompany all packages of purchases made at the Clay coin sale for distant bidders. This course is rendered necessary, upon this occasion, on account of the large amount of funds required by us at this sale.



SPECIAL NOTICE.

About the middle of the present month, we shall make a second tour of New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts; also, visiting central portions of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Patrons wishing to buy or sell coins will please designate the kind and condition, enclosing schedule of trains arriving and leaving their localities. Write at once.

INFORMATION WANTED.

We would be under many obligations to those of our subscribers having coin cases or cabinets if they will kindly send a description of the same in time for our next issue.

COGAN'S NEW YORK COIN SALE.

The sale of Mr Cogan's shop stock took place at Bangs, Mervin & Co's., 694 Broadway, on November 13, and was an entire success.

BLACK LIST.

Amounts due Mason & Co. for coins. Notifications mailed in each instance and unnoticed.

C. A. B., Granville, Washington County, N. Y. \$5.

R. S., Quincy, Ill. \$15.

L. M. N., New York. \$7 75.

P. A. R.,\* Chicago, Ill. \$23 50.

W. C. N., Richmond, Va. \$1 50.

T. D., Jr., Castine, Me. \$5 60.

S., Montreal, Canada. \$5.

\*If Mr. R. was burned out at the recent conflagration we will send him a receipt in full.

(To be continued.)

Philatelic Department.

ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued.)

The postal stamps of the United States were authorized by act of Congress of March 3, 1847. Two values only were introduced, viz.: ten cents and five cents, bearing respectively the portraits of Washington and Franklin. They were finely engraved by Rawdon, Hatch, Wright and Edson, of New York, and were issued July 1, of that year. They remained current until July 1, 1851, when, in consequence of an alteration in the rates, they were withdrawn, and replaced by three new values, viz.: one cent, three cents and twelve cents. In May, 1855, a ten cent stamp was issued, and subsequently, at intermediate dates, a complete series, ranging in value from five to ninety cents. They were manufactured by Toppan, Carpenter & Co., of New York, and remained current until the breaking out of

the great rebellion in 1861, when, it being considered desirable to change the issue of stamps, a contract for the manufacture of the United States postage stamps was awarded to the National Bank Note Company of New York. A new set of stamps was then prepared and issued August 14 of that year, with two new values, the designs being similar to the preceding issue. The entire set still pass current. In March, 1869, the late current series, corresponding in value to the preceding issue, was, by direction of the government, also prepared by the National Bank Note Company; but the public feeling being wholly against them, on account of their small size, the government, in 1870, authorized the company to prepare a new set, and in the spring of 1870 (April) they produced an elaborate series. The portraits upon them are mostly engraved from standard marbles, and are wonderfully truthful in every detail. They are of the following denominations and descriptions:

Cents,	Profile Bust after	Color.
1. Franklin, . . .	Rubright, . . .	Imperial blue.
2. Jackson, . . .	Powers, . . .	Velvet brown.
3. Washington, . . .	Houdon, . . .	Milori green.
6. Lincoln, . . .	Volk, . . .	Cochineal red.
10. Jefferson, . . .	Powers' Statue, . . .	Chocolate.
12. Clay, . . .	Hart, . . .	Purple.
15. Webster, . . .	Clevenger, . . .	Orange.
24. Scott, . . .	Coffee, . . .	Pure purple.
30. Hamilton, . . .	Corrachi, . . .	Black.
90. Perry, . . .	Wolcott's Medallion,	Carmine.

To which has lately been added, for German postal service, a seven cent stamp, bearing a portrait of the late Secretary of War, Stanton, photographed from life—color, red. Of these stamps the National Bank Note Company has furnished the government the past year with nearly five hundred millions. The Post Office Department has received the congratulations of several foreign governments upon the beauty and workmanship of this issue of stamps. They are undoubtedly the finest set of stamps in the world, and for delicacy of engraving, symmetry of design and general contour remain peerless. The United States has the honor of having used the largest stamps for postal purposes in the world, known as the "Periodical Stamps," which were used for newspapers carried outside the mails. These were furnished by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and were surface printed from steel plates, and not fine line engraving like the letter stamps. The three values—five, ten and twenty-five cents—bear respectively medallion portraits of Washington, Franklin and Lincoln. They were issued October 1, 1865, and withdrawn in February, 1869, having been used only in Chicago and Milwaukee. Stamped postal envelopes were introduced in the United States in 1853, having been authorized by act of Congress of August 31, 1852. There have been several issues, all of which were engraved by Messrs. Nesbitt & Co., of New York.



Quite recently, the contract for the manufacture of United States stamped envelopes was awarded to G. A. Reay, of New York, who manufactures those now in use.

(To be continued.)

#### NEW ISSUES.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Pskoff*.—Our St Petersburg correspondent sends us a stamp issued July 10 last, for the Pskoff circuit (in the government of the same name). It has rather a bizarre appearance, like all the lozenge shaped stamps, but is pretty well engraved, and the color, a bright violet, is pleasing. This is the second stamp issued in the Pskoff province, the first being for Toropetz, and of this no specimens have yet come over.

Besides the foregoing, the following stamps have been issued since the publication of our correspondent's list:

*Ekaterinoslaw Government*.—*Mariopol Circuit*.—5 kop., black on white.

*Perm Government*.—*Shadrin Circuit*.—5 kop., blue on white.

*Taurida Government*.—*Melitopol Circuit*.—3 kop., blue.

The Melitopol stamp replaces one of the same value printed in red, and bearing as device the imperial mantle and arms with inscription in oval frame. That device having been objected to as making the stamp look too much like the government issue, it has been changed. Our correspondent had not seen any of the stamps he refers to, and therefore is unable to give any further details respecting them.

We are pleased to be able to give three other locals already described, namely:

*Egorieff*.—Transverse lozenge shaped; inscription in frame, CIRCUIT OFFICE FOR THE PROVINCE OF EGORIEFF; in centre, RURAL POSTAGE STAMP, and the value, 3 kop., blue and black. The two colors, though of the same value, show certain differences in the details of the design.

*Skopin*.—3 kop., blue.

*Sapojok*.—5 kop., black.

These two stamps, together with the Egorieff labels, all belong to the Riasan government, but the perfect independence of each other felt by the authorities of the respective "circuits" is shown in the dissimilarity of designs. There is evidently no concerted action with regard to the issue of these local stamps; in fact, they exemplify in a special manner the working of the decentralising principle.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The new stamps will appear for certain on New Year Day next; they will have for design the imperial eagle, in white relief, in centre, and will be inscribed DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST and value. One of our correspondents informs us they will be used in every part of Germany, except Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and the values will be as follows: *Adhesives*— $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 5 groschen, 1, 2, 3, 7, 18 kreuzer. *Envelopes*—1 groschen, 3 kreuzer. *Wrappers*— $\frac{1}{2}$  groschen, 1 kreuzer.

RUSSIA.—We have information from St. Petersburg that postal cards are shortly to be issued and are to be of two values—3 kop., for town delivery, and 5 kop., for cards from town to town throughout the empire. There is also to be a new adhesive imperial postage stamp, value 25 kop., for registered letters throughout Russia. These novelties will probably make their appearance with the New Year.

FRANCE.—A new "chiffre-taxe" stamp, value 25 centimes, has appeared. Design and color remain unchanged, nor has even the improvement of perforation been introduced—the numeral alone is altered. This 25 centime stamp represents the postage claimable on local letters, but it is said that 40 and 60 centime labels will also be issued—the former for unpaid letters from town to town, the second for double weight letters, either local or general; and the errors arising out of the present confusion of colors in the ordinary stamps, may render the *chiffres-taxe* indispensable. The department seems to have foreseen the difficulties which must result from the new 15 centime, brown, and 25 centime, blue, being in the same colors as the old values.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The fashion of issuing stamps of high value seems to be spreading through our colonies, and may therefore be meeting, in stereotyped phrase, "a want long felt." The Cape has just followed it in emitting a five shilling stamp of the same size and design as the other values, but of an orange color. Some difference in size will probably be found desirable in order to better distinguish this expensive label.

TURKEY.—According to our Brussels contemporary, the 10 paras, stone, is not an unpaid letter stamp, but forms one of the regular postage stamp series, and is used concurrently with the 10 paras, mauve, which it will probably replace when the stock of the latter is exhausted.

HONG KONG.—The 30 cent stamp is now printed in mauve, in lieu of vermillion, a fact which seems to point to the retirement of the 18 cents.

LUXEMBURG.—The 10 centimes stamp of this duchy is now printed in mauve instead of the lilac shade.

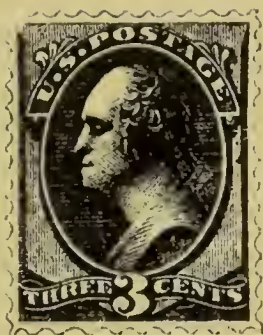
NEW GRENADA.—*Tolima*.—A 10 centavos stamp exists for this state, which we hope to describe next month.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

HUNGARY.—We understand that the 15 kreuzer of the new series has come into circulation, the 25 kreuzer being alone now wanting.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—We have received some new varieties of envelopes from this republic. They are hand stamped, with the two types previously described on white paper: POTCPEFSTROOM and ZUID AFRICA in circle, Z. A. R. 69 and value (6d.) in centre. The varieties in question have black impressions on sand-colored rather coarse paper; the value added in writing both in red and black ink. Size, 6 by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The sixpenny adhesive now comes over of an indigo blue.—*Philatelist*.



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